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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,999	10/24/2001	Derek K. Gauger	GDK-100-B	9338

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EXAMINER	
VIG, NARESH	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3629	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
12/28/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/039,999	Applicant(s) GAUGER, DEREK K.	
	Examiner Naresh Vig	Art Unit 3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 6, 9, 34, 41 and 52 - 55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 6, 9, 34, 41 and 52 - 55 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is in reference to communication received 17 October 2007. Claims 1 – 6, 9, 34, 41 and 52 – 55 are pending for examination

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1 – 6, 9, 41, 53 and 55, drawn to an interactive computer method for managing a project by establishing a plurality of information modules in an interactive computer system, creating an electronic collaboration center in one of the modules on the computer system for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project, defining authorized individuals who have access to the interactive computer system providing electronic data interchange for a project; determining access to the collaboration center by the authorized individuals including a collaboration leader, allowing the collaboration leader to modify at least one of the collaboration summary, the collaboration status and the collaboration status statement; accepting input information at the collaboration center from the authorized individuals to facilitate resolution of a project issue related to the collaboration, notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the collaboration purpose, the deadline, the collaboration action plan, and input information, forwarding one of a question to be decided by all authorized project individuals,

accepting votes of authorized individuals, making a decision by the project leader on the issue based in part on the votes; displaying the results of the vote, using bi-directional electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the information modules; and the information modules automatically documenting the electronic mail in the appropriate information module by updating the information in the appropriate information module, classified in class 705, subclass 1.

- II. Claim 34, drawn to an interactive computer method for managing a project by establishing a plurality of information modules in an interactive computer system, defining authorized individuals who have access to the interactive computer system providing electronic data interchange for a project, defining a collaboration in the collaboration center including a collaboration leader, accepting input information at the collaboration center from authorized individuals to facilitate resolution of a project issue; using bi-directional electronic mail interaction between authorized individuals and the information modules, providing an electronic mail response capability for at least certain of the requests and notifications issued in any of the information modules allowing an authorized user to respond to the request and notification by direct electronic mail reply; the information modules automatically documenting the reply and any documents attached to the reply in the appropriate information module by

updating the information in the appropriate information module, classified in class 705, subclass 1.

- III. Claim 52, drawn to an interactive computer method for managing a project by establishing a plurality of information modules in an interactive computer system, defining authorized individuals who have access to the interactive computer system providing electronic data interchange for a project, creating an electronic collaboration center in one of the modules on the computer system for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project, determining in the collaboration center access to the collaboration center by the authorized individuals, defining a collaboration in the collaboration center including a collaboration leader, accepting input information at the collaboration center from authorized individuals, linking at least two of the information modules for bi-directional data interchange between each module, providing a project plan having a plurality of items; linking each item to a set of tasks; linking any item and task to an issue describing a problem and a call for action, linking all of the information and actions associated with the issue to the tasks and the project plan item, classified in class 705, subclass 1.

- IV. Claim 54, drawn to an interactive computer method for managing a project by establishing a plurality of information modules in an interactive computer system, defining authorized individuals who have access to the interactive computer system, creating an electronic collaboration center in one of the modules on the computer system for the time disjointed electronic interaction of authorized individuals on the project, determining in the collaboration center access to the collaboration center by the authorized individuals; defining a collaboration in the collaboration center including a collaboration leader, accepting input information at the collaboration center from authorized individuals to facilitate resolution of a project issue, issuing a request for project review by an authorized project individual, providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests by one in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series from all of the designated delegated recipients, providing for the delivery of the review request to the designated recipients directly in parallel providing each of the designated recipients with the capability of one of replying to the review request directly, delegating the review request to a designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to a requestor of the request for review prior to delivery to the requestor, serially delegating the review request to a next designated recipient having the same reply and delegating options to deliver a reply to requestor, classified in class 705, subclass 1.

Inventions I – IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct if they do not overlap in scope and are not obvious variants, and if it is shown that at least one subcombination is separately usable. In the instant case,

subcombination I has separate utility such as allowing the collaboration leader to modify at least one of the collaboration summary, the collaboration status and the collaboration status statement, notifying all authorized individuals of a change in at least one of the collaboration purpose, the deadline, the collaboration action plan, and input information, accepting votes of authorized individuals, making a decision by the project leader on the issue based in part on the votes;

subcombination II has separate utility such as providing an electronic mail response capability for at least certain of the requests and notifications issued in any of the information modules allowing an authorized user to respond to the request and notification by direct electronic mail reply.

subcombination III has separate utility such as linking at least two of the information modules for bi-directional data interchange between each module, providing a project plan having a plurality of items; linking each item to a set of tasks; linking any item and task to an issue describing a problem and a call for action, linking all of the information and actions associated with the issue to the tasks and the project plan item

subcombination IV has separate utility such as issuing a request for project review by an authorized project individual, providing for a reply from the plurality of designated review requests by one in parallel from each designated review recipient and in series from all of the designated delegated recipients, providing for the delivery of the review request to the designated recipients directly in parallel providing each of the designated recipients with the capability of one of replying to the review request directly, delegating the review request to a designated delegate with the capability for the designated delegate to respond directly to a requestor of the request for review prior to delivery to the requestor, serially delegating the review request to a next designated recipient having the same reply and delegating options to deliver a reply to requestor

See MPEP § 806.05(d).

The examiner has required restriction between subcombinations usable together. Where applicant elects a subcombination and claims thereto are subsequently found allowable, any claim(s) depending from or otherwise requiring all the limitations of the allowable subcombination will be examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. See MPEP § 821.04(a). Applicant is advised that if any claim presented in a continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art in view of their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the inventions have acquired a separate status in the art due to their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Telephone interview was not conducted due to complexity of the restriction requirement and since the examiner knows from past experience that an election will not be made by telephone. (see MPEP 812.01)

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

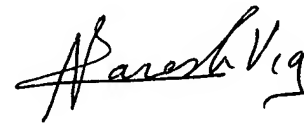
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naresh Vig whose telephone number is (571) 272-6810. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 7:00 - 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Naresh Vig
Examiner
Art Unit 3629

December 26, 2007